

### Preamble:

**We the People of the United States,**  
**in Order to form a more perfect Union,** *make a better country*  
**establish Justice,** *create fair government & laws*  
**insure domestic Tranquility,** *peace in our homes*  
**provide for the common defense,** *national security*  
**promote the general Welfare,** *healthy communities*  
**and secure the Blessings of Liberty** *keep freedom*  
**to ourselves and our Posterity,** *family & friends*  
**do ordain and establish** *give authority*  
**this Constitution** *the supreme law of the land*  
for the United States of America.

### Articles:

#### Article I \_\_\_\_\_

The longest article in the Constitution vests legislative power in the Senate and the House of Representatives. It describes the organization of **Congress** and lists its specific powers, known as **enumerated** or **delegated powers**. Through the **necessary and proper clause** (also called the **elastic clause**), Congress can make laws needed to carry out its enumerated powers. Article I also lists the powers denied to Congress and the states.

#### Article II \_\_\_\_\_

This article deals with the **executive branch** and describes the election of the president (and vice president), the qualifications for holding the office, and the procedures if a president can no longer serve. The powers of the president include serving as commander in chief of the army and navy, making treaties, and, with the "advice and consent of the Senate," appointing ambassadors, officials, and Supreme Court justices. The president is required to periodically report to Congress on the state of the union, can propose legislation, and can call Congress into special session.

#### Article III \_\_\_\_\_

This article established **judicial branch**. The Supreme Court and authorizes Congress to establish lower federal courts. The types of cases the courts have jurisdiction over are given, and a provision is made for the right to trial by jury. While not specifically stated, the power of the courts to declare a law unconstitutional is implied.

#### Article IV \_\_\_\_\_

The full faith and credit clause requires that the legislative and judicial actions of one state be honored by the other states. Additionally, a citizen of any state has the same privileges as citizens of all the other states. Article IV also provides for adding new states to the union, guarantees each state a republican form of government, and ensures protection against invasion or domestic violence.

#### Article V \_\_\_\_\_

The process for **amending** the Constitution is described. The states are responsible for ratifying amendments.

#### Article VI \_\_\_\_\_

The Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties entered into by the United States are the supreme law of the land. This is known as the **supremacy clause**.

#### Article VII \_\_\_\_\_

Approval by conventions of nine of the states was required to ratify the Constitution.



**1st** People have freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and the right to petition the Government. 1791.

**2nd** People have the right to have a weapon to protect themselves. 1791.

**3rd** Soldiers cannot take or live in a person's house. 1791.

**4th** The government cannot arrest a person or search their property unless there is "probable cause." 1791.

**5th** The government must follow the law (due process) before punishing a person. 1791.

**6th** A person has the right to a fair and speedy trial by a jury. 1791.

**7th** A person has the right to a jury trial for civil cases. 1791.

**8th** The government cannot demand excessive bail or fines, or any cruel and unusual punishment. 1791.

**9th** The Constitution does not include all of the rights of the people and the states. 1791.

**10th** Any powers that the Constitution does not give to the federal government belong to the states. 1791.

**11th** Citizens cannot sue states in federal courts. (There are some exceptions). 1795.

**12th** The President and Vice President are elected on a party ticket. 1804.

**13th** Slavery is illegal in the United States. 1865.

**14th** Every person born in the USA is a citizen. An immigrant can become a naturalized citizen. 1868

**15th** All US male citizens have the right to vote. 1870.

**16th** Congress can tax income. 1913.

**17th** The people can elect US Senators. 1913.

**18th** Alcohol is illegal. (Prohibition). 1919.

**19th** All US female citizens have the right to vote. 1920.

**20th** The President is inaugurated in January. Congress begins to meet in January. 1933.

**21st** Alcohol is legal. Each state can make laws about making, selling, and drinking alcohol. 1933.

**22nd** The President cannot serve for more than two terms. 1951.

**23rd** The US Citizens in the District of Columbia have the right to vote for President. 1961.

**24th** It is illegal to make a citizen pay a voting fee or take a reading test to vote. 1964.

**25th** If the president dies or cannot serve, the vice-president becomes president. If both die, the Speaker of the House becomes president. 1967.

**26th** US citizens who are 18 years old or older have the right to vote. 1971.

**27th** Congress must limit when and how much its members are paid. 1992.